

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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PASS TO THE U.S. LOS DEL

FOL REPEAT BRASILIA 4418 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

JUNE 18

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 4418

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: LOS: PRESS ACCOUNTS OF BRAZILIAN POSITION

1. TWO EVIDENTLY AUTHORITATIVE NEWS STORIES ON
BRAZIL AND THE CARACAS CONFERENCE APPEARED JUNE 12,
EACH IN ONE OF BRAZIL'S LEADING NEWSPAPERS. WHILE
THE ACCOUNTS DIVERGE WITH REGARD TO SOME DETAILS,
PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE REPORTERS' PERCEPTIBLY
INCOMPLETE GRASP OF THE ISSUES, THEY AGREE ON SOME
BASIC POINTS:

A. BRAZIL WILL NOT ABANDON ITS "THESIS" OF
200 MILES OF TERRITORIAL SEA, AN EXTREME POSITION,
AND THUS WILL PROBABLY NOT SIGN A CARACAS
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B. THE COUNTRY AT THE OTHER EXTREME IS THE
SOVIET UNION, THE US POSITION HAVING BECOME
MORE FLEXIBLE:

C. BRAZIL CAN TAKE SOME SATISFACTION IN THAT
ITS POSITION HELPED TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL
RESPECT FOR COASTAL STATES' EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION
OVER AT LEAST SOME RESOURCES OUT TO 200 MILES.

2. BOTH ACCOUNTS ALSO DISCUSSED WHAT WAS IDENTIFIED BY THE REPORTERS
AN "INTERNATIONAL MARITIME TRIBUNAL" TO BE PROPOSED BY THE US. WHILE
THE JORNAL DO BRASIL HEADLINED ITS STORY THAT BRAZIL
WOULD OPPOSE THE CREATION OF SUCH A BODY, O ESTADO DE
SAO PAULO NOTED ONLY THAT THE PROPOSAL COULD OBTAIN
WIDE SUPPORT.

3. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, IN AN EDITORIAL OF JUNE 15,
CONTINUED ITS STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE CONCEPT OF THE
200 MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT. THE EDITORIAL FOUND
PERSUASIVE THE ARGUMENT THAT THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL
SEA CONFLICTS WITH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WOULD
SHARPLY LIMIT FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, AND POINTED OUT
THE DIFFICULTIES BRAZIL WOULD FACE IN ATTEMPTING TO
POLICE A 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. WITH PERU SOFTENING
ITS ORIGINAL EXTREME POSITION ON THE TERRITORIAL SEA,
THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, ANY COUNTRY THAT CONTINUES
TO SUPPORT THAT CONCEPT RUNS THE RISK OF BEING
"UNDESIRABLY ISOLATED," AND HAVING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE
CONCEPT INTERPRETED AS "EXTEMPORANEOUS NATIONALISM."
THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT THE PATRIMONIAL SEA CON-
CEPT IS CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS
OF COASTAL STATES WHILE REMAINING COMPATIBLE WITH THE
PRINCIPLE OF FREE NAVIGATION.
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